

pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Amended) A diffractive optical element, comprising:
a grating structure having at least two blazed type grating portions successively arranged along a light traveling direction, wherein in at least one grating portion of said two blazed type grating portions, structures smaller than a used wavelength are arranged in a periodic manner.
2. (Not Amended) A diffractive optical element according to claim 1, wherein said diffractive optical element is structured such that within an entire region of used wavelengths, diffraction directions are made different from each other, depending upon a polarization direction of a light beam incident on said diffractive optical element, and a diffracted light is concentrated only to one predetermined diffraction order.
3. (Not Amended) A diffractive optical element according to claim 1, wherein said minute periodic structure is constituted by one kind of material, or two kinds of materials, and occupation ratios of the respective materials within one period of said minute periodic structure are made different from each other along a periodic direction of said grating portion.
4. (Not Amended) A diffractive optical element according to claim 1, wherein said diffractive optical element has a step-shaped grating portion.

5. (Amended) A diffractive optical element according to claim 4, wherein said minute periodic structure of said grating portion is varied along a periodic direction of said grating portion.

6. (Amended) A diffractive optical element according to claim 5, wherein said minute periodic structure varied along the periodic direction of said grating portion is varied every step of said step-shaped grating portions.

7. (Amended) A diffractive optical element according to claim 4, wherein said minute periodic structure of said grating portion is varied in a grating thickness direction.

8. (Amended) A diffractive optical element according to claim 7, wherein said minute periodic structure varied in the grating thickness direction is varied every step of said step-shaped grating portion.

9. (Not Amended) A diffractive optical element according to claim 1, wherein said used wavelength range corresponds to a visible light range.

10. (Amended) A polarization converting element, comprising deflecting means provided so that an emergence direction of one of a P-polarized light beam and an S-polarized light beam which has undergone polarization-separation to be diffracted in a diffraction direction different depending on a polarization direction by said diffractive optical element

according to claim 2 is made substantially coincident with an emergence direction of the other beam.

11. (Amended) A polarization converting element, comprising a half-wave plate provided in correspondence to one of a P-polarized light beam and an S-polarized light beam, which has undergone polarization-separation to be diffracted in a direction different depending upon polarization direction, by said diffractive optical element according to claim 2.

12. (Amended) A polarization converting element, comprising deflecting means provided so that an emergence direction of one of a P-polarized light beam and an S-polarized light beam which has undergone polarization-separation to be diffracted in a diffraction direction different depending on a polarization direction by said diffractive optical element according to claim 2 is made substantially coincident with an emergence direction of the other beam and a half-wave plate is provided in correspondence to one of the P-polarized light beam and S-polarized light beam.

13. (Amended) A polarization converting element according to any one of claims 10 to 12, further comprising an optical member provided so that an incident direction of a light beam on said diffractive optical element is made substantially parallel to an emergence direction thereof.

14. (Not Amended) A projection type display apparatus, in which a light beam which is emitted from a light source unit and contains an S-polarized light component and